



September 2002

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

Chapter Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 p.m. at Delia Taylor's house, 1851 Catalina, Berkeley
Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 p.m. at Charli Danielsen's house

Native Here Nursery, p. 5

Tuesdays, collect seed for propagation. Leave Native Here at 9 a.m.

Fridays, Native Here Nursery open 9-noon

Saturdays, Native Here Nursery opens 10-1

Native Plant Restoration Team, p. 4

Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m. Restoration party at Strawberry Creek Park

Membership Meeting, see below.

September 25, 7:30 p.m.

Chapter Plant Sale, p. 2

Saturday October 5 and Sunday October 6

CNPS Native Plant Conference, p. 3

October 20-21, Oakland

Membership Meeting

Climate Change as an Ecosystem Architect: Implications to Rare Plant Ecology, Conservation, and Restoration

Speaker: **Dr. Connie Millar**

Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.
Conference Center, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

The natural process of climate change has been largely ignored in our attempts to understand and manage natural resources, much as the importance of fire was ignored during the last 50-100 years. But recent research has revealed that climate fluctuations occur more frequently, regularly, and abruptly than previously thought and also have a more significant impact on vegetation. Within the 90,000 year glacial periods and the warmer 10,000 year periods between them occur periods of less dramatic climate change lasting on the order of 1000 years. And within those 1000-year periods are yet smaller cycles lasting just years or decades. All of these climate cycles are accompanied by measurable changes in vegetation that have implications for conservation and restoration.

Dr. Connie Millar, a research geneticist with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, is a leading researcher in the fields of paleoecology and climate change. She will discuss her current studies

of climate change and their important implications for plant conservation and resource management.

East Bay Chapter CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

Next month's program:

October 23, 2002 Bethallyn Black Rogers:

Sudden Oak Death update

Sue Rosenthal

One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

CNPS Sale of Native Plants October 5 & 6
Sat. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Come early Saturday morning for best selection. Follow the signs to CNPS nursery in Landscape Horticulture at Merritt College.

The nursery is full to capacity again this year, and the plant list will be available at the gate. You may want to check the list posted on the Chapter web site about a week prior to the sale. Or be surprised – some plants few in number may not make the list.

Experienced native plant gardeners will be on hand to help you with our selections.

In addition to plants there will be CNPS posters, wildflower seeds, and a good selection of books on finding, identifying and growing native plants.

Be prepared:

- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Bring sturdy boxes to carry plants home.
- Bring a friend to help you collect and load your plants.
- Plan on using the loading zone at the curb after retrieving your car unless you have brought a wagon with you.
- Bring cash or personal check (we can't accept credit cards).

Help us set up for the Sale!

September is a very busy month as we move every plant at least once before the sale, spread lots of mulch, put price tags on every plant, refresh labels, assemble temporary structures, groom plants and

much more. We'd appreciate whatever skills and time you can offer, and you will get a thorough preview of what is available. People who can drop in to help for just half a day make a big difference keeping us on schedule.

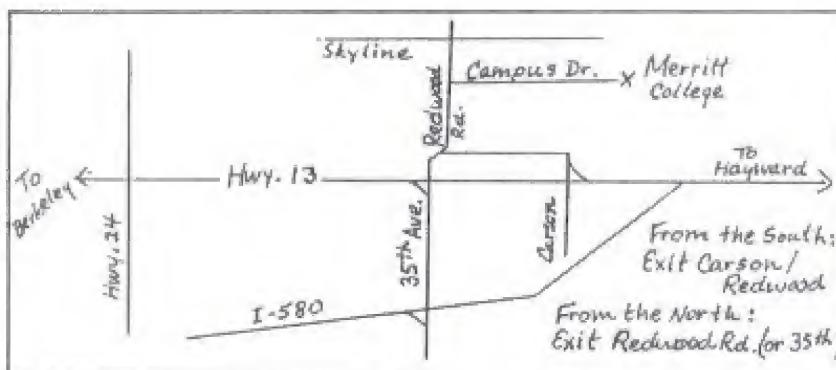
Check the calendar below for our work schedule (shaded days are work days). We work from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Landscape Horticulture area at Merritt College, to the west of the greenhouses. Bring your lunch if you can stay after a noon break. Parking requires two quarters.

Volunteer at the Sale, Saturday and Sunday, morning or afternoon

We need many volunteers, especially on Saturday during the plant sale to cashier, sell plants, and assist people. If you've helped us in recent years you should receive a reply postcard soon. Please respond . . . even if only to let us know you aren't available this year but would like to stay on the mailing list. If you don't hear from us, or you'd like to volunteer for the first time please call (925) 376-4095 or (510) 525-6614.

Shirley and Phoebe

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
OCTOBER						



2002 East Bay Chapter Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2002 Scholarships. Five scholarships are awarded to students in botany, horticulture, and related fields who are interested in working with California native plants.

Ruth Kirkpatrick was selected as outstanding applicant of the year, receiving both a regular scholarship for \$1000 and also the distinguished Myrtle Wolf Scholarship for an additional \$750. Ruth is a Ph.D. student in the UC Berkeley Department of Integrative Biology, and is currently pursuing research on the relationships of California ferns, especially the cliff-brake ferns (*Pellaea*).

Scholarships were also awarded to Sally Chess, a masters student at San Francisco State working with evening-snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*), which occurs in the eastern reaches of our chapter's area; to UC Davis masters student Erin McDermott for studying the effects of mycorrhizal (fungal) inoculants on native grass restoration; to Landscape Design student Leita Brown who is at Merritt College working with California native plants in habitat restoration projects; and to Elizabeth Zacharias, PhD student at UC Berkeley Department of Integrative Biology, who is studying how functional adaptations of plants are constrained by, or result from, their evolutionary history.

We received many excellent applications this year, and the grants committee was challenged to arrive upon this list. I hope you will join me in congratulating this year's winners, and encourage students you know to work with California plants and apply for next year's scholarships. Preference is given to students working on or with native plants in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, though other applications are also considered. Details and deadlines appear in the *Bay Leaf* in the spring.

Our scholarship program is an important way we can encourage the next generation of students and scientists to learn about and make active contributions conserving our wild plants. Please take a moment to make a donation to the Scholarship fund and pass the torch to the next generation.

Tony Morosco

There is no Excellent Beauty that hath not some strangeness in the Proportion.

Francis Bacon

When you observe you start seeing things.

Yogi Berra

Unusual Plants Alert

The Unusual Plants Committee is trying to track down some historical records, monitor current populations, and look for new sites of the following plants in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and we'd like your help:

Cuscuta species
Piperia species
Spiranthes species
Triglochin concinna
Triglochin striata.

If you encounter any of these species, please contact me, providing the place and date you saw them, a map or description of the site, how many plants were there, conditions of the plants and the site, how you verified the identity of the species, and your name and phone or email. A photograph showing the key characteristics would be an added bonus. Thanks for your help!

Dianne Lake, Unusual Plants Coordinator
diannelake@yahoo.com
1050 Bayview Farm Rd., #121, Pinole 94564

Native Plant Conference

The **California Native Plant Society** presents a conference on landscaping with California native plants

Sunday, October 20,
Sausal Creek Field Trip 10:00 – 3:00
Monday, October 21, Conference 9:00 – 5:30

The field trip and conference will take place in Oakland.

Have you ever wished you had more help carrying out native plant protection and restoration projects? Would you like a paid staff member to take on some tasks? Want to find out how you can find funds to support activities that will educate about, protect, and restore native plant communities? If so, this is the conference for you!

The goals of this conference are to:

1. Introduce native plant project partners and potential funders to each other.
2. Lay groundwork for new projects.
3. Function as a springboard for creating partnerships between non-profits, businesses and government agencies interested in increasing the use of California native plants.

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Speakers include:

Malcolm Margolin, Heyday Press, "Dancing on the Brink of the World: What the Bay Area Was Like Prior to the Arrival of Europeans"

Michael Thilgen, Four Dimensions Landscaping, and **Lesley Estes**, City of Oakland: "The Restoration of Sausal Creek, the Development of a Native Plant Demonstration Garden and the Creation of a Locally Appropriate Native Plant Nursery".

Chris Dundon, Contra Costa Water District:
"Partnering With Water Districts on Native Plant Activities: Projects They Might Fund, and How You Can Get Connected".

Breakout sessions will include discussions on Nursery/Landscaping Activities, and encouraging and increasing the use of natives in home gardens.

Sunday, October 20

Sausal Creek Restoration Project Field Trip

Michael Thilgen, Four Dimensions Landscaping 10:00 – 3:00. Limit 30.

Participants will tour a 15,000 square foot demonstration garden with more than 80 species of plants native to California, then walk up the adjacent creek to see the 2.2 acre creek restoration project. Through this project, which was carried out primarily by volunteers, invasive weeds were removed by hand, and more than 60 species of plants propagated from remnant native plant populations found in the watershed were planted on the banks of the creek and upland slopes. We'll picnic at the restoration site, then carpool to the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery, where more than 20,000 plants native to the watershed were grown for use in the restoration project. (See www.sausalcreek.org for more information on the project.)

The registration fee for the conference is \$20. This includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, and a wine and cheese. The field trip is \$10. Attendance is limited to 80 at the conference and 30 on the field trip. This event is expected to fill, so don't be disappointed; register early!

Please make your check out to CNPS. Send your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope (or e-mail address) to: **Kathy Kramer**, CNPS Education Coordinator, 1718 Hillcrest Road, San Pablo CA 94806. Questions? Call (510) 236-9558 between 9

am and 9 pm, or e-mail Kathy@KKramerConsulting.net. Please note if you would like table space to display flyers, books, or other materials.

We would like to provide accommodations for CNPS members who will be coming in from out-of-town to attend the Oct. 20 and 21 conference on native plants in Oakland. If you can help, please e-mail or call Kathy Kramer at kathy@kkramerconsulting.net or (510) 236-9558.

Native Plant Restoration Team

Dreams of fields and meadows:

July Work Party - Removal of yellow star thistle and Italian thistle

Golden hills, gentle breezes and bright blue skies greeted us at Charli Danielsens's long-term grassland restoration project in Mitchell Canyon located on the east side of Mt. Diablo (10 years running!). A combination of mowing, prescribed burning and hand pulling of weeds over the years has transformed this field that reputedly was a carrot field, then a cow pasture full of invasive exotics. Today, purple needle grass, milkweed, tarweeds, poppies, yarrow, and blue-eyed grass run into stands of snowberry, roses, and stately oaks and buckeyes at the bordering seasonal creek.

August Work Party - Removal of yellow star thistle at Berkeley Meadow (Eastshore State Park) at the Berkeley Waterfront

Susan Schwartz (Friends of Five Creeks) has been out hand pulling weeds for years in this rare piece of bay-shore open space. Targeted areas have improved immensely and with continued vigilance, to this nasty thistle we say: "Farewell and good riddance!" Stands of native willows and coyote bush intermingle with many other invasive exotics that have ferociously populated what were once tidal marshlands before becoming a landfill project. Despite the need to control the weedy species and provide much more native plant diversity, this area is critical habitat for shoreline animals and can be delightfully serene.

September Work Party: Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m. Join the Friends of Strawberry Creek, in Berkeley, at Strawberry Creek Park for restoration work to this lovely creek and its watershed.

October Work Party: Saturday and Sunday, October 5-6 are CNPS' annual plant sale days at Merritt College- come out to help with the sale and/or pick up some exciting plants for your own garden!

Sarah Ginskey

Native Here Nursery

Native Here Nursery is a place to learn about local native plants, as well as to purchase them. The summer months are very active in the nursery, although not a very good time to be planting things out in one's garden. The two July classes on propagating local native plants were well attended. Participants seemed pleased with what they had learned and with the little pots of seeds and plants they took home with them.

Another learning opportunity is volunteering—either the Tuesday seed collecting walks, or helping whenever the nursery is open. Volunteers are always welcome, and it is a low-key way to learn a lot about our local natives and how to grow them.

September will be very busy, with seed sowing starting even as seed collection continues; seedlings are ready to go into individual containers, and small container plants are ready to move to larger containers to prepare them for gardens and projects in the fall. Native Here also has a few books for sale, and lots of reference books to browse through. There is no need to phone ahead unless you are afraid the nursery might be closed due to weather conditions. The phone number is 549-0211.

It has come to our attention that web directions don't get one to the nursery, or even to Tilden Park Golf Course, our nearest neighbor. At the corner of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Shasta, turn into the park at Shasta (east) and then turn right at Golf Course Drive (park signs at the corner of the course) and go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Native Here is on the right, golf course on the left.

Charli Danielsen

Activities of Others

Watching Our Watersheds: Reducing Pollution in Our Homes and Schools

Saturdays, September 21 & September 28, 2002 from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This two-day workshop will be held in Contra Costa County at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette and Wagner Ranch Elementary in Orinda. It is designed for Grades K-12 educators working in Contra Costa County.

Participants will conduct surveys of hazardous products in homes and schools and discuss safer alternatives, explore a creek for invertebrates and conduct water quality tests, propagate native plants to promote a healthy watershed, learn the principles of Integrated Pest Management, and learn to develop

outreach projects that educate students and the community about the need to reduce the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and household hazardous waste. A curriculum guide with extensive resource materials is also included. Participants will receive help in applying for grant funds and gain access to *Teacher Action Grants* of up to \$2,000. Academic credit (1.5 units) is available through California State University, Hayward (cost for credit is an additional \$68).

A non-refundable, \$25 pre-registration fee is required to attend the workshop.

For more information about the workshop, or to register, please check our web site at www.aoiinstitute.org or contact Tamara at the Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-9493.

This program is funded by the Contra Costa County Clean Water Program, West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority, and the Cities of Orinda and Antioch.

Lisa Lacabanne

Aquatic Outreach Institute

1327 S. 46th St. #155
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 231-5783

California Botanical Society

2002-2003 Schedule of Speakers

7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month
2063 Valley Life Science Building
University of California, Berkeley

Sept. 19 Martin Bidartondo, Department of Plant Biology, UC Berkeley
Obligate cheaters of mycorrhizal networks

Oct 17 Truman Young, Department of Environmental Horticulture, UC Davis

Ecological restoration: an emerging conservation strategy

Nov. 21 Randy Jackson, ESPM, UC Berkeley
Spring-fed wetland structure and function in California oak savannas

Jan 16 David Ackerly, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University
Fire, drought, and the evolution of chaparral shrubs

Feb 15 **Annual banquet** (To be held in San Diego)
Jon Rebman, San Diego Natural History Museum
Discoveries on a floristic frontier: Baja California

Mar 20 Kim Steiner, California Academy of Sciences
The evolution of a specialized pollinator system in southern Africa

April 17 Todd Dawson, Dept. of Integrative Biology,
UC Berkeley

Giants in the mist: coastal redwoods and the land-sea interface

May 15 Marcel Rejmanek, Div. Biological Sciences,
UC Davis

Seed dispersal and coexistence of tree species in tropical forests

Lectures are open to all. Refreshments will be served following each seminar. For further information about lectures, activities, or membership, please call 510-643-7008.



Holocarpha macradenia photographed in Santa Cruz County by John Game. This rare tarweed has been extirpated from its former East Bay locations in the wild, but thrives in naturalized mitigation sites in the East Bay hills.

Board of Directors

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Steve Asztalos, 839 York St., Oakland 94610, asztalos1@llnl.gov

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Sandy McCoy, 1311 Bay View Place, Berkeley 94708,
wbmccoy@earthlink.net

East Bay Public Lands:

Peter Rauch, 526-8155, peterr@socrates.berkeley.edu

Education:

Vacant

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

Membership category:

- ____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
- ____ Individual, Library, \$35
- ____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45
- ____ Supporting, \$75
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Benefactor, \$500
- ____ Life, \$1000

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814



Hemizonia parryi ssp. *congdonii* photographed near Livermore by John Game. This rare plant was recently found at a new location with other listed species near Dublin.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**

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